

## Message Text

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06816 251838Z

47 41  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
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P R 250920Z SEP 73  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3952  
SECDEF PRIORITY  
INFO USCINCEUR

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6816

EXDIS

PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS IR  
SUBJ: PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF F14/15 AIRCRAFT

SUMMARY: CONCERNED TO PLAN NOW FOR HIS FUTURE AIR DEFENSES, SHAH HAS REQUESTED FIRM COMMITMENT IN WRITING THAT USG WILL SUPPLY IRAN WITH F14/15 AIRCRAFT. ACTION REQUESTED: LANGUAGE WITH WHICH WE MAY REPLY TO SHAH'S REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING AUDIENCE AUGUST 28 SHAH ASKED AMBASSADOR TO OBTAIN INFO ON PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF F14/15 AIRCRAFT. CHIEF, ARMISH/MAAG, SOLICITED THIS INFORMATION THROUGH TECHNICAL CHANNELS AND RECEIVED REPLY ON 18 SEPTEMBER. IN SUBSTANCE, REPLY STATED THAT REASONABLY ACCURATE P AND A INFO WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR F14 IN EARLY 1974 AND FOR F15 IN 1975. REPLY INDICATED THAT DEFINITE INFORMATION WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL PROCUREMENT HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. WHEN CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION WAS ESTABLISHED, DOD COULD PREPARE P AND A DATA. THIS INFORMATION WAS COMMUNICATED TO GEN. KHATAMI, COMMANDER IIAF, BY CHIEF, ARMISH/MAAG, AND CONVEYED BY KHATAMI TO SHAH.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 24, KHATAMI GAVE ARMISH/MAAG SHAH'S RESPONSE. WHILE SHAH UNDERSTOOD CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN ARMISH/MAAG  
SECRET

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 06816 251838Z

LETTER, HE FELT THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT F14/15 PURCHASE BE QTE NAILED DOWN UNQTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IRAN MUST HAVE FIRM COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF THESE AIRCRAFT, SHAH EMPHASIZED. ASSERTING THAT MIG 23 AND OTHER ADVANCED MODEL

AIRCRAFT WERE BEING PROVIDED TO COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING IRAN, SHAH FEARED IRAN QTE COULD BE LEFT HOLDING THE BAG. I WILL NOT PERMIT THIS TO HAPPEN UNQTE. SHAH SAID RUSSIANS HAD OFFERED SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND WOULD BE EAGER TO REPLACE WESTERN EQUIPMENT AND INFLUENCE.

3. SHAH STATED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH MIGHT FORCE USG TO ALTER ITS VERBAL AGREEMENT TO SELL F14S AND F15S. A SIGNED AGREEMENT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO PLAN ON A FIRMER BASIS. ACCORDINGLY, SHAH REQUESTED COMMITMENT IN FORM OF A SIGNED STATEMENT AUTHORIZED BY USG ON AVAILABILITY OF F14 AND F15 AIRCRAFT. IF THE PRICE OF THESE AIRCRAFT COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED NOW, STATEMENT ON AVAILABILITY COULD INCLUDE LANGUAGE TO EFFECT THAT PRICE FOR IRAN WOULD NOT EXCEED PRICE TO BE CHARGED TO USG. IRAN WOULD PAY SAME PRICE FOR HARDWARE AS USG.

4. WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR STATE AND DEFENSE TO PROVIDE US WITH TEXT OF STATEMENT MEETING SHAH'S CONCERNS. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE EQUALLY DEFINITE COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF BOTH AIRCRAFT AT THIS STAGE, SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO TREATING THE TWO AIRCRAFT SEPARATELY ON THIS POINT. HOWEVER, AS SHAH'S REQUEST TREATED AIRCRAFT ON SAME BASIS, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR REPLY TO DEAL WITH TWO AIRCRAFT IN AS NEARLY SIMILAR TERMS AS POSSIBLE.  
HELMS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 10 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, F-14, F-15, SHAH, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** MASS, MMOL, US, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR  
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